

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: March 13, 2019

Time: 7:14pm

Place: Town Hall

Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Finance Committee members Laura Allen, Amy Pulver, Steve Rawlings, Frank Penglase, and arriving late Thomas Berkel, Lucinda Vermeulen, Joe Schneider, Ken Knox.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

Fire Chief Joe Schneider presented his idea to be compensated part-time for the administrative duties he has to do as Fire Chief. He was asked to draft a job description which Vice-Chairman McGurn will help him with and establish a number of hours per week. Joe said would give up his Fire Chief stipend if he was paid for the administrative work.

Joe has asked for a new budget item of \$10,000 for OSHA compliance. It is not clear exactly what OSHA requirements volunteer fire departments need to comply with. The Board will ask its insurer, MIA, to send in a training inspector. The Board agreed to fund this on the warrant.

School Committee Chair Ken Knox noted that the majority of the projected school budget increase of \$191,890, a 12% increase, is for the capital bond issue. A presentation of the budget is being planned for sometime in April. The Board agreed to vote to exclude the school capital debt from the Town's levy limit.

Planning Board Chair Lucinda Vermeulen presented a warrant article that proposes a ban on non-retail recreational marijuana facilities. There were questions as the presented draft asked for a ban on retail as well.

Lucinda Vermeulen, acting as the Chair of the Bylaw Review Futures sub-Committee, asked for an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to reformat the current General Bylaws without changing any of the wording of the bylaws. The Board agreed but will see if the multi page bylaws can be printed separate from the Warrant itself.

The Finance Committee discussed with the Board the merging of the Police Facility building expenses (ie. Heat, electric, etc) into the Building General and Utility accounts which pays the expenses for all other town buildings. As all utility expenses are tracked for each building all agreed that this was appropriate.

The Board reviewed the following requests for articles and budget items:

William Voiers has presented his proposed bylaw to ban all algeacides, herbicides and pesticides from Prospect Lake.

The increased capacity generator, that will replace the broken one and operate all of town hall with the exception of heat requires an upgrade of the electrical service in the building. The estimate is \$57,000. It was agreed that was a necessary expense.

The Town awaits the certified school budget which will show the breakdown of the Town's Assessment for Operating, Capital and Bond. The Town's total assessments are up \$191,890.

The Board agreed to increase the Transfer Station budget by \$5,000 to cover anticipated process fees for recyclable materials beginning mid-fiscal year.

The Board approved the following budget requests:

Historical Commission Expenses	\$1,850
MACRS special article	\$4,000
Book Restoration article	\$1,000
Veteran's Services	\$21,000
Assessors Expenses	\$2,600
Assessors Consultant	\$35,000
Town Accountant Expenses	\$1,500
Public Health Services	\$2,575
Berk. So. Reg Comm Cntr	\$2,000
Cemetery Expenses	\$18,000
Cemetery projects special article	\$6,000
Reserve Fund	\$25,000
Finance Committee Expenses	\$400
Audit	\$8,037
Insurance Property & Casualty	\$117,382
Legal Fees	\$14,680
Legal Expenses	\$2,000
Litigation	\$5,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$100
Railroad Street Youth Project	\$1,500
Inspector Expenses	\$2,780
Planning Board	\$2,500
Planning Board wages	\$400
Town Clerk expenses	\$6,800
Election Wages	\$4,500 The Board will get details on why there is an increase.
Longevity Pay amended	\$3,025
Town Telephone	9,600 The Board approved installing a new VOIP phone system

Once the Compensation Committee finishes their work, all wage amounts will be considered.

There is still confusion about the Water Department budget as the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen don't have the same budget requests.

The Board voted unanimously to hire Matthew O'Sullivan as a full-time Police Officer effective May 1, 2019 contingent upon his showing proof he has moved, or is moving, to the area, for a one year probationary period.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Mary Brazie,

Office Administrator

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.